

ARA-1	RM/R	REP	AF
ARA	EUR	FE	
NEA	CU	INR	
E	P	IO	
L	FBO	AID	
AGR	COM	FRB	
INT	LAB	TAR	
TR	XMB	AIR	
ARMY	CIA	NAVY	
OSD	USIA	NSA	
	DOT	NSC	

# ALBUKAM

 R POL GUYANA-SUR  
 FOR RM USE ONLY

A-77

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

Guyana/Surinam Bdy 60/H

DEPT PASS: BRIDGETOWN, BRAZILIA, CARACAS, THE HAGUE, KINGSTON, LONDON, OTTAWA, PARAMARIBO, PORT OF SPAIN, USCINCSO

FROM : Amembassy GEORGETOWN

DATE: June 29, 1970

SUBJECT : Sedney-Burnham Joint Communique

REF : Georgetown 704

 RECEIVED  
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 JUL 6 29 27 AM 1970  
 ANALYSIS BRANCH

The reference cable summarized the results of the official visit to Guyana by Prime Minister Sedney June 24-27. Enclosed are copies of the joint communique issued at the end of the visit and Prime Minister Sedney's opening statement at his June 27 press conference. The joint communique announces the "immediate demilitarization" of the disputed Upper Corentyne region, the establishment of a permanent Surinam-Guyana Commission, plans to open a Surinamese Consulate General in Georgetown "at an early date", and a return official visit to Surinam by Prime Minister Burnham in October.

KING

 Encl:  
 Joint Communique  
 Sedney Press Statement

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY

FORM 4-62 DS-323

☐ In ☐ Out

Dated by:

DCM:TJCheavner: jw 6/29/70

Contents and Classification Approved by:

AMB:SMKing

Clearances:

1. At the end of my four days visit to your country, I feel obliged to express my sincere gratitude for the hospitality granted to me and my wife by the people of Guyana.

I am grateful to Prime Minister Forbes Burnham for the invitation he has extended to me at the end of our first meeting in April at Chaguaramas in Trinidad.

I still remember the reserve with which we met at the beginning of our talks. I also remember the warm atmosphere which came to exist at the end of the talks, which I attribute to the fact that immediately after our talks began it became clear that the policy of both our Governments were in many respects alike and that we both were eager to end the unnatural tension that existed at that time between the peoples of our respective countries.

I feel happy that since April the consultations between our respective Governments have been fruitful and that I have been able to pay an official visit to Guyana so shortly after the agreement of Chaguaramas.

Although I had the feeling that I would get a cordial welcome, I must confess that what my wife and I have experienced during the past four days exceeded all our expectations.

The hospitality we have received from your President and Mrs. Chung, the happy expressions which faced us and the enthusiasm of the young people have deeply moved us.

2. As you know working groups have been established after the agreement of Chaguaramas with the responsibility to prepare plans for the demilitarisation of the Upper-Corantyne area and to inventorise the areas in which practical cooperation between Guyana and Surinam is desirable.

The working parties have made recommendations to their respective Governments and Prime Minister Burnham and myself have during our discussions in the past four days reached full agreement on the procedures to be followed in the future.

We have decided to forthwith completely demilitarise the Upper-Corantyne area.

The areas of cooperation appeared to be many and to promote clear understanding I should like to distinguish in the areas in which practical cooperation can forthwith be realised whereby I refer especially to cooperation in the cultural field, the exchange of technicians, training of personnel and sports.

In the second place there are areas of cooperation which require detailed technical preparation before the cooperation can be carried out effectively. Examples are the providing of a ferry service for passengers and vehicles between New Nickerie and Springlands, establishment of airlinks between Georgetown and Paramaribo to be maintained by our own national carriers and improvement of tele-communication connections between the two countries

-2-

The third category of areas of cooperation <sup>relates</sup> to matters in which further development of policy by the respective Governments is necessary and in which further exploration should still be carried <sup>out</sup> to determine in which form this cooperation should take place and how this is to fit in the planning and economic context and relations of the two countries.

As you know Surinam is associated with the European Common Market and it is clear that an extensive study is required in order to determine what the consequences are of closer trade relations with Guyana, being a member of CARIFTA.

My Government is of the opinion that our cooperation should be based on the need of both countries to support each other in their efforts for an optimal development of their national resources.

It is necessary to explore whether it is advisable to promote development projects which might be in the interest of all three Guyanas.

Of course this has its consequences for the planning in both countries. In Surinam as well as in Guyana Government policy is now focussed on planning. In planning the problem of assigning priorities between alternatives is central regarding the goals desired as well as allocation of the available resources and means.

Planning is equal to choice of future and I am convinced that it is a fortunate circumstance that both our Governments are prepared to take into consideration each others interests in choosing their futures.

3. I should have failed if I did not use this opportunity to express that my Government has high appreciation for the work done by the Permanent Representative of Guyana in Surinam since his appointment.

Having experienced this and taking in consideration our sincere desire to give a real meaning to our renewed relations, my Government has decided to establish a similar Permanent Representation in Georgetown at an early date.

4. Finally I can inform you that I am very pleased by the fact that Prime Minister Burnham has today accepted my invitation to him to pay an official visit to Surinam in October and I hope that many of you who have not already paid a visit to Surinam at an earlier date will accompany him.

Press Statement by the  
Minister President of Surinam,  
DR. JULES SEDNEY,  
27TH JUNE, 1970

- encl # 2 -  
**Official Visit of Prime Minister Jules  
Sedney of Surinam to Guyana**

-----  
**Communique**

At the invitation of the Prime Minister of Guyana, the Hon. L.F.S. Burnham, the Prime Minister of Surinam, the Hon. Jules Sedney, and Mrs. Sedney paid an official visit to Guyana from June 24 to June 27, 1970. The invitation from the Prime Minister of Guyana had been issued to Dr. Sedney at the conclusion of the discussions held between the two Prime Ministers at Crow's Nest, Chaguaramas in Trinidad and Tobago during April 1970.

On his visit to Guyana, Dr. Sedney was accompanied by Mr. A. Kemperveen, Chairman, Parliamentary Boundary Commission, Dr. L. Mungra, Chairman, Parliamentary Committee for External Affairs, Mr. H.R. Lim-A-Po, Chairman and Leader of Surinam Working Party and Mr. K. Sariman, Parliamentary Leader of the Indonesian Party S R I.

Throughout the visit, Prime Minister Sedney and Mrs. Sedney were guests of His Excellency the President and Mrs. Chung at Guyana House. They attended a State Dinner at Guyana House given by the President and Mrs. Chung, and were guests at a Reception in their honour given by the Prime Minister and Mrs. Burnham. During their stay they visited the bauxite operations at Mackenzie, Kaieteur Falls, the Skeldon/Springlands area in Berbice and the University of Guyana campus at Turkeyen.

The two Prime Ministers held several discussions which covered a wide field of subjects and at the conclusion of the visit they issued a Joint Declaration in the following terms:-

**"JOINT DECLARATION**

The Governments of Surinam and Guyana, inspired by the ideals of international co-operation and the peaceful settlement of controversies, have decided to strengthen the historic and traditional bonds of friendship between Surinam and Guyana by active co-operation in the spheres of economic, social and cultural development and by the resolute pursuit of all practical means for the peaceful settlement of difficulties.

- 2 -

2. In so doing, the two Governments recognised that in addition to the bonds of geography, Surinam and Guyana shared a common historical and cultural background and possessed similar natural resources and economic potential to the accelerated development of which each Government was committed.

3. To these ends, the Prime Minister of Guyana and the Prime Minister of Surinam agreed to place on a permanent basis the joint examination of ways and means of effecting co-operation in matters of common interest between Surinam and Guyana in the economic, social and cultural fields and of peacefully resolving all outstanding difficulties and situations which might endanger friendship and good neighbourliness between the two countries.

4. To achieve these purposes the Prime Ministers exchanged views on the establishment of a standing Surinam/Guyana Commission and accepted, in principle, the conclusion of an Agreement between their respective Governments for the creation and functioning of the Commission. The Prime Ministers envisaged that the Commission would take over the responsibilities previously entrusted to the ad hoc Working Parties established as a result of their earlier meeting in Trinidad and Tobago in April 1970 and expressed their appreciation of the work already done by those bodies in advancing the cause of co-operation and friendly relations between the two countries.

5. The Prime Ministers recognised that in many areas of co-operation there will be need for patient and continuous effort. They were heartened, however, by the fact that the initial efforts of the Working Parties had already identified a significant number of areas of practical co-operation between the two countries including development planning, trade, geology, mining and processing of minerals, hydro-power, mapping and surveying, forestry, conservation of natural resources, soil surveys, river and air communication, telecommunications, agriculture, livestock and fisheries and, not least, cultural and educational relations. The Prime Ministers expressed the hope that the Commission will carry forward the work thus begun with all practical expedition.

- 3 -

6. The Prime Ministers also reviewed the work that had been done since their previous meeting on the question of demilitarisation of the border area in the region of the Upper Corentyne. They recognised the importance of achieving demilitarisation as rapidly as possible and, with this in view, and in the spirit of friendship and understanding that characterised their discussions and motivated the policies of their Governments, the Prime Ministers agreed upon the immediate demilitarisation by both countries of their respective presences in the region.

7. The Prime Minister of Guyana indicated to the Prime Minister of Surinam that pursuant to their meeting in Trinidad and Tobago and even prior to the meeting of the Working Party on Demilitarisation, his Government had taken steps to withdraw military personnel from a number of points in the region of the Upper Corentyne. With the removal of remaining Guyana and Surinam military personnel from the region which the Prime Ministers agreed to undertake forthwith, the demilitarisation envisaged in their communique of April 1970 would have been effected.

8. The Prime Ministers recognised, however, that mere demilitarisation was not enough and that more positive efforts must be pursued to secure a lasting reduction of tension and avoidance of incidents in the region and to finally resolve those issues which have in the past produced them.

9. To this end, they agreed that [a Special Committee of the Surinam/Guyana Commission shall be charged with the responsibility of continuing the discussions which were adjourned in London in June, 1966, and that, pending the completion of this work, the Committee shall, through procedures to be agreed, exercise special fact-finding functions in relation to sources of disharmony in the region of the Upper Corentyne with a view to ensuring that such situations do not disturb friendly relations between the two Governments or prejudice the effective operation of programmes of co-operation agreed upon.]

10. In agreeing upon these arrangements, the Prime Ministers expressly reiterated that it was the policy of both Governments that their relations shall be conducted on the basis of tolerance, restraint and mutual respect

- 4 -

and that in the resolution of all problems between them there shall be resort only to peaceful means and machinery of settlement.

11. Conscious that direct representation in each other's Capital would materially advance the cause of friendly relations between the two countries and the programmes of co-operation agreed upon, the Prime Minister of Guyana welcomed the indication given by the Prime Minister of Surinam that there would be established at an early date a Consulate-General in Georgetown.

12. The Prime Ministers expressed the hope that the agreements reached as a result of their cordial and constructive discussions will provide a lasting basis for the strengthening of the bonds of friendship between Surinam and Guyana to which both Governments have renewed their commitment.

13. Finally, the Prime Minister of Surinam, on behalf of his Government, extended a cordial invitation to the Prime Minister of Guyana to visit Surinam in October, 1970."

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,  
Georgetown, Guyana.

27 June, 1970.